Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-125. (Canceled)

126. (Previously Presented) A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with an isolated polypeptide having at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

127. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is recombinant.

128. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126 or 127, wherein said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are present in a sample, and the method identifies a the presence of dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in the sample by detecting growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in the sample.

129-130. (Canceled)

131. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126 or 127, wherein the polypeptide is in unit dosage form.

132-143. (Canceled)

144. (Previously Presented) A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting-high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the cell strain in culture medium, thereby stimulating growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

145-148. (Canceled)

149. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

150. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2.

151-156. (Canceled)

157. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is purified essentially to homogeneity.

158. (Cancelled)

159. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 128, wherein the sample is taken from a human or animal.

160. (Previously Presented) A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a purified polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2,-wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

161. (Previously Presented) A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a purified polypeptide comprising at least amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:-2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund,or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

162. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 160 or 161, wherein said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are present in a sample, and the method identifies the presence of dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in the sample by detecting growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in the sample.

163. (Previously Presented) A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:-2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and said cell strain in culture medium, thereby stimulating growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

164. (Previously Presented) A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising at least amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:-2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and said cell strain in culture medium, thereby

stimulating growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

165. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:43.

166. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:7.

167. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

168. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:3.

169. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:4.

170. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:5.

171. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:6.

172. (New) The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:8.